

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been amended. Claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 11-18 have been added. The Amendments made are fully supported by the specification as filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Specification

In the Office Action, the abstract has been objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the abstract in order to overcome the Examiner's objection and request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the use of parentheses in the claims created a lack of clarity. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 5 in order to correct the informalities and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims and rewritten in order to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), set forth in this Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 set forth in this Office Action and to include the features of now canceled claim 4. As such, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is now in

condition for allowance. Additionally, remaining claims 2-3, 5 and 7-10 depend from claim 1 and are also in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency.

Furthermore, Applicants have added claim 11 to include the features of now canceled claim 6 and previously presented claim 1 in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 set forth in this Office Action. As such, Applicants submit that new claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Additionally, remaining claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and are also in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency. It is noted that new claims 12-15 correspond to original claims 2, 3, 5 and 7.

It is further noted that new independent claim 16, which relates to an imaging unit, incorporates the limitations of original claim 8 and new claim 11. As such, Applicants submit that new claim 16 is in condition for allowance. Additionally, claim 17 depends from claim 16 and is also in condition for allowance at least by virtue of its dependency.

Furthermore, new independent claim 18, which relates to an optical device, incorporates the limitations of original claim 10 and new claim 11. As such, Applicants submit that new claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

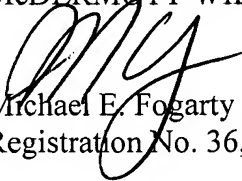
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/571,618

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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